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Title: Interview with Prince Rowan of House Westmark Pt. 1

Author: Jurel  
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This interview was conducted this morning at Nujel'm Palace. I asked permission for, and was granted, an audience with Prince Rowan of House Westmark, the heir apparent to Bermayne

Altair Westmark's wealth and estate. We met in his study for about an hour. I found him most congenial, cooperative, and polite. I could see, however, the strain of the previous night's events on his face, and in his voice.

Jurel: "Prince Rowan, word has it that the Crystal Ball did not go well. From your vantage point, please clarify things for those of us not privileged to be invited. What is going on in the ruling House of our fair city?"

Rowan: "You cut to the chase, Jurel, and so will I. Well, to facilitate better working relationships with certain large and notable factions within Britannia, we decided to begin the year with a Ball. I personally asked my Heralds, Criers, and Bards, to send word of it. We have limited space at the Palace to accommodate large numbers, so we decided to send out invitations."

Jurel: "I see. Well, who sent invitation to extreme and subversive groups such as the Order of the Ebon Skull, and the Cult of Infernal Necromancy, among others, who were seen in attendance? Or did they come uninvited?"

Rowan: "I am a man of diversification. I am hesitant to label anyone or any group until I have had the opportunity to hear and consider their philosophies. I also hope to be a catalyst for unity in the land, and bringing diverse groups into contact with one another permits dialogue that might be conducive to mutual understanding and, hopefully, some degree of acceptance. You call those groups "extremists" and "subversive." Have you taken time to examine their beliefs for yourself? Or is all your knowledge of them secondhand?"

Jurel: "You have me there. I hear things about them, though, and they are, shall I say, not good. In fact, it is common knowledge that they harbor enmity to those who espouse the virtues. This they freely admit and publicize."

(Rowan smiled at this point.)

Rowan: "Shame on you. You speak without true knowledge, sir, when you label folk without seeking a better understanding of their ways. But, to continue, we did have two unfortunate incidents to transpire."

Jurel: "Aye, the death of

your House Magi, Adrick  
Moonstar, long time  
friend of your father,  
and the family."

Rowan: "Indeed. Adrick's  
presence will be greatly  
missed." (I could see much  
sadness in the young  
Prince's eyes when he  
spoke of this - Jurel)

Jurel: "What happened  
exactly? Please share the  
details."

Rowan: "As you may know,  
we recently sent a  
caravan from Yew to  
Minoc. Along the way it  
was accosted by bands of  
brigands and outlaws, who  
stole much of the  
treasure. I sent word  
around asking for the  
recovery of the stolen  
items, some of which  
were extremely valuable.  
In reply, several groups  
reported that they had  
killed thieves who had the  
artifacts I described in  
their possession, and  
would return them to me.  
General Navrip and Smogg  
Azalin sent word they  
would meet with me at  
the Ball and deliver them  
if they could be  
identified. As they were  
quite valuable, and they  
have such rabid enemies,  
they preferred I send  
someone to identify them  
rather than bring them  
on their persons to the  
Ball. I asked Adrick to do  
this. He knew what to  
look for, and could easily  
note anything not ours,  
or fake."

Jurel: "Navrip and Smogg?  
Are not these two  
leaders of the groups I  
spoke of earlier?"

Rowan: "Correct. I met  
with them in my

chambers, and, despite attempts to thwart his exit, Adrick accompanied them to their Church at Caina. It was there he met his death."

Jurel: "Then they killed him?"

Rowan: "I am commissioning an inquiry into it exactly, but General Navrip made a statement at the Ball which insists it was a matter of self-defense on their part. I cannot say for sure what happened at this point. One thing is certain. Adrick is dead."

Jurel: "It is a simple matter to resurrect him. Why was this not done?"

Rowan: "That, too, is a mystery. He has not returned, nor hath his ghost. I am baffled by it."

Jurel: "What is this news of your sister, Shalina? Word has it you had her arrested shortly thereafter. Is this true?"

Rowan: "Yes it is. My sister is very outspoken. After word of Adrick's demise, she became beside herself and began raving. Some of it I could ignore and forgive, but not when it became treasonous accusations. She tried to implicate me in some plot to kill my beloved mentor Adrick. Actually, as you may recall, she herself was implicated in a theft of jewelry at the Palace shortly after her arrival some months ago. She has been under suspicion for some time in various

attempts to undermine my authority. After me, she is next in line to be considered for the rule of House Westmark, now that Adrick is gone."

Jurel: "Are you insinuating that she had some involvement with the death of Adrick?"

Rowan: "She and Adrick had many conversations, in private, but the Palace has ears. Some of these indicate she was priming Adrick for some outlandish behavior toward certain individuals, including myself. General Navrip commented on this in his speech, and I remembered those reports. So, yes, she may have driven beloved Adrick to his premature and violent death."

Jurel: "Where is she now, and what are your plans with her?"

Rowan: "She is incommunicado now, but, to be fair to the citizens of Nujel'm, she may eventually be incarcerated in the Town Jail. Nobility does not confer special status where criminal action is involved. I feel very strongly about that."

Jurel: "If convicted, what will be the sentence of the court for her?"

Rowan: "I hate to think of it, but once again, justice is blind, as it should be. To be guilty of high treason in Nujel'm carries the death penalty."

